

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An input information processing apparatus comprising:

5 a physical keyboard which has a plurality of physical keys and generates key data through operation of said physical keys;

 a screen keyboard which comprises a plurality of screen keys arranged and
10 displayed on a screen having a touch panel arranged thereon, and generates key data through operation of said screen keys;

 an input port to which said physical keyboard and said screen keyboard are
15 connected;

 an output port for transferring said key data;

 an application processing unit which performs prescribed processing in accordance
20 with said transferred key data;

 a key data transfer control unit which transfers the key data entered from said input port through key operation on said physical keyboard and the key data from said
25 input port through operation on said screen keyboard in accordance with an operating sequence for these keyboards via said output

port; and

a keyboard control unit which notifies said application processing unit of said key data transferred from said key data transfer control unit for causing to execute processing.

2. The input information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said key data transfer control unit:

transfers key stroke data for each processing stroke of the physical key when said physical keys are operated in succession; and

transfers make coordinate data for each pressing stroke of the screen key, and transfers break coordinate data for each releasing stroke of the screen key when said screen keys are operated in succession.

20

3. The input information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when successively operating the physical keys and then the screen keys in duplication, said key data transfer control unit transfers key stroke data upon pressing a physical key, then transfers make coordinate data upon

pressing a screen key, and then transfers break coordinate data upon releasing the screen key.

5 4. The input information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when successively operating the screen keys and then the physical keys in duplication, said key data transfer unit transfers make
10 coordinate data upon pressing a screen key, suppresses transfer of key stroke data upon pressing a physical key while pressing a screen key, transfers break coordinate data upon releasing the screen key, and when
15 pressing of the physical key is continued after releasing the screen key, transfers key stroke data in succession to the transfer of said break coordinate data.

20 5. The input information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said key data transfer unit transfers, when operating a physical key during operation of a screen key, make coordinate data upon
25 pressing the screen key, suppresses transfer of key stroke data upon pressing the physical key during pressing of the screen key, and

transfers break coordinate data upon releasing the screen key.

6. The input information processing
5 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
keyboard control unit notifies the key data
upon pressing the key from among the key data
received from said key data transfer unit to
the application processing unit for execution
10 of processing, and suppresses notification of
the key data upon releasing the key.

7. The input information processing
apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said
15 keyboard control unit notifies the make
coordinate data upon pressing the screen key
from among the key data received from said
key data transfer unit to the application
processing unit to cause execution of the
20 processing, and suppresses notification of
the break coordinate data upon releasing the
screen key.

8. The input information processing
25 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
key data transfer control unit transfers key
data upon pressing a key in response to key

operation, and suppresses transfer of key data upon releasing the key.

9. The input information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said key data transfer control unit transfers make coordinate data upon pressing a screen key in response to key operation, and suppresses transfer of break coordinate data upon releasing the screen key.

10. The input information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said physical keyboard, said screen keyboard and said key device transfer control unit are provided in the POS device unit, together with a scanner unit which reads product barcode, and said keyboard control unit and said application processing unit are provided in a POS main body having a card register.

11. An input information processing method comprising:

a first event detecting step of detecting an event caused by operation of a physical key from the signal status of an input port connected to a physical keyboard

which has a plurality of physical keys and
generating key data through key operation to
said physical keys;

a second event detecting step of detecting
5 an event caused by operation of a screen key
from the signal status of the input port
connected to the screen keyboard which
displays a plurality of screen keys on a
screen comprising a touch panel and
10 generating key data through key operation to
said screen keys; and

a key data transfer controlling step of
transferring key data entered from said input
port through key operation on said physical
15 keyboard and key data entered from said input
port through key operation on said screen
keyboard in accordance with an operating
sequence for the both keyboards via an output
port.

20

12. The input information processing method
according to claim 11, further comprising a
keyboard controlling step of notifying key
data transferred in said key data transfer
25 controlling step for execution.

13. The input information processing method

according to claim 12, wherein said keyboard
controlling step is to notify key data upon
pressing the key from among the key data
transferred in said key data step to the
5 application for execution, and suppress
notification of the key data upon releasing
the key.

14. The input information processing method
10 according to claim 11, wherein said key data
transfer controlling step is to transfer the
key data upon detecting a key pressing event
for a key operation, and suppress key data
transfer upon detecting a key releasing event.

15

15. A program which causes a computer
composing a device control unit to execute:
a first event detecting step of detecting
an event caused by operation of a physical
20 key from the signal status of an input port
connected to a physical keyboard which has a
plurality of physical keys and generating key
data through key operation to said physical
keys;
25 a second event detecting step of detecting
an event caused by operation of a screen key
from the signal status of the input port

connected to the screen keyboard which
displays a plurality of screen keys on a
screen comprising a touch panel and
generating key data through key operation to
5 said screen keys; and

a key data transfer controlling step of
transferring key data entered from said input
port through key operation on said physical
keyboard and key data entered from said input
10 port through key operation on said screen
keyboard in accordance with an operating
sequence for the both keyboards via an output
port.

15 16. A program according to claim 15,
wherein said key data transfer controlling
step is to transfer the key data upon
detecting a key pressing event for a key
operation, and suppress key data transfer
20 upon detecting a key releasing event.